(a) whether the Contract for Bookstalls of M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. has since been renewed;

(b) if so, what are the Complete details thereof; and

(e) if not by when it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The extant policy on bookstalls is under review. The renewal of contract of M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. can only be considered after the policy is finalised.

Transportation of Fodder to Gujarat

5208. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ :
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :
DR. A. K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway rakes requested by Gujarat Government for transportation of fodder to scarcity affected areas in the last four months of December to March;

(b) what is the number allocated by the Railways against the above requirement; and

(c) in view of the acute scarcity of fodder in the scarcity districts of Gujarat, will the Railway Ministry consider the seriousness of the situation and allocate the required number of rakes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Railway rakes are provided as per the indents registered with the Railways. From December, 2002 to March, 2003, 89 rakes were loaded for transportation of fodder to Gujarat and 43 indents were pending at the end of March, 2003. Efforts have been made to provide were empty rakes for loading of fodder for Gujarat scarcity affected areas.

Bookstalls at Railway Stations

5209. Dr. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS :
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new contract of bookstalls are allotted to eligible categories through normal set procedure by inviting applications through press notification;

(b) if so, whether the said set procedure is also being adopted in allotment of new and additional bookstalls to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.;

(c) if not, what are the detailed reasons therefor;

(d) what are the names of stations where the contract of bookstalls is held by M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.; and

(e) the names of stations where the contract of bookstalls is held by Higginbothams Ltd.; Serva Seva Sangh Prakashan and Gita Press, Gorakhpur etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of bookstalls held by M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. is frozen.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Mobile Exhibition by Railways

†5210. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways propose to carry "Mobile Scientific Exhibition" in the country with the aim of giving the message of unity to the citizens of the country on the occasion of 150th anniversary of its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to which parts of the country this exhibition will be carried to at first and by when the said exhibition is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A proposal from Department of Science & Technology has been received for running a "Mobile Scientific Exhibition" in the country. Accordingly, cost estimates for running the train have been furnished to the Department of Science & Technology for their acceptance. It has no connection with the 150th Anniversary of the Railways.

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh

†5211. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of pending railway projects in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.